

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. The specification has been amended to insert headings.

Claims 9-28 are pending in the application. Claims 9-19 have been amended to improve the language in a non-narrowing fashion. Claims 20-28 are newly presented. New claims 20-22 generally set forth subject matter canceled from the previous claims. New independent claim 23 generally corresponds to claim 9 without utilizing "means" language. New claims 24-28 generally correspond to claims 10-14.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 10-12 and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The comments in the Official Action have been considered and the claims have been appropriately amended, for example, by removing "preferable" type limitations and re-presenting them in separate dependent claims. Also, claim 18 has been amended to set forth that "a tank of a vehicle" is first being claimed. The claims are thus clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 9, 13, 14 and 16-19 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bossinger et al. (WO 94/20802) in view of CN 2461939 and CN 1309820. Claims 10-12 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bossinger et al. (WO 94/20802) in view of CN 2461939 and CN 1309820, and further in view of DE 9321520. Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bossinger et al. (WO 94/20802) in view of CN 2461939 and CN 1309820, and further in view of DE 375,498. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is a continuation of International Application PCT/NL02/00481 (published in English as WO 03/008803), which claims priority of NL 1018669 filed on July 17, 2001.

In comparison, CN 2461939 was filed in China on February 12, 2001 and became available as prior art in the United States when it was published on November 28, 2001, which was subsequent to the priority date of the present application.

CN 2461939 thus cannot be utilized as prior art against the present application and the rejections utilizing CN 2461939 are obviated.

Withdrawal of these rejections using CN 2461939 is accordingly respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosures filed January 18, 2005 and March 5, 2007 and for making the references therein of record in the application.

Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The rejections are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot. No issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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